

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 BIB-01 IO-10 /065 W

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O R 131342Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0730

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

UNCLAS BONN 09543

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS STATEMENT ON WIRETAPPING OF CDU

OFFICIALS

1. AT HIS NOON PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 13, GOVERNMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
CONCERNING THE STERN ARTICLE ON THE WIRETAPPING OF A
PHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN CDU OFFICIALS KOHL AND
BIEDENKOPF: BEGIN QUOTE

"THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NO LESS AFFECTED BY THE FACT
THAT A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MINISTER PRESIDENT
KOHL AND CDU SECRETARY-GENERAL BIEDENKOPF WAS ILLEGALLY
TAPPED IN OCTOBER 1974 THAN ARE THE TWO POLITICIANS.
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKES THIS OPERATION VERY
SERIOUSLY. ALREADY YESTERDAY IT INITIATED THE FIRST
STEPS TO INVESTIGATE AS QUICKLY AND AS THOROUGHLY AS
POSSIBLE THIS SERIOUS VIOLATION AGAINST THE CONFIDENTIALITY
OF LETTERS, MAIL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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DENTIALITY OF LETTERS, MAIL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

WHICH IS GUARANTEED IN ARTICLE 10 OF THE BASIC LAW.
THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR AND THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF THE
INTERIOR WERE INFORMED ALREADY YESTERDAY EVENING OF THE
FACTS KNOWN AT THAT TIME. HEAD OF THE FEDERAL
CHANCELLERY SCHUELLER IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED MINISTER
PRESIDENT KOHL AND PROFESSOR BIEDENKOPF YESTERDAY
EVENING. THE COMMITTEE OF STATE SECRETARIES FOR
QUESTIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY
MET AT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY THIS MORNING AT 11:00
O'CLOCK UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. SCHUELLER TO
ANALYZE THE FACTS KNOWN SO FAR AND TO DISCUSS MEASURES
FOR CLEARING UP THIS OPERATION." END QUOTE

2. BOELLING EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT THE OPERATION HAD
NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT
AND OPPOSITION, AND STATED THAT IT COULD ABSOLUTELY BE
EXCLUDED THAT GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAD ANY HAND IN THE
MATTER. AS NO REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE FROM ANY GERMAN
SOURCE, IT HAD TO BE A MATTER OF AN ILLEGAL ACTION.

3. BOELLING STATED THAT THE ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION TO
STATE SECRETARY MAERKER (COMMENT: MAERKER HAD ALSO
RECEIVED A COPY OF THE REPORT THAT WAS MAILED TO
STERN) WAS POSTED IN KAISERSLAUTERN. ASKED ABOUT PRESS
REPORTS CONCERNING A CONNECTION WITH THE CIA, BOELLING
SAID: "HEAD OF THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY SCHUELLER INFORM-
ED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY YESTERDAY, IN LIGHT OF SUCH
HINTS. I EMPHASITICALLY WARN YOU IN ANSWERING YOUR
QUESTION AGAINST ANY SPECULATION SEEKING TO ESTABLISH
A CONNECTION HERE; THERE IS NO BASIS FOR SUCH SPECULA-
TION." IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS ALONG THIS
LINE, BOELLING REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT SPECULATION OF
THIS KIND WAS DEVOID OF ANY FOUNDATION.

HILLENBRAND

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